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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

FROM: AMEMBASSY, GUATEMALA

401
DESP. NO.

TO: THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

November 6, 1953
DATE

REF:

NOV 9 1953

For Dept. Use Only	ACTION REC'D	DEPT. INFO OTHER

SUBJECT: Reported Arrest of Guatemalans Distributing Anti-Communist Propaganda.

Spokesmen of the Comité de Estudiantes Universitarios Anti-comunista (CEUA), the university students' anti-Communist committee, and of other anti-Communist organizations have complained through the independent press that the police arrested six newsboys distributing anti-Communist propaganda in the streets without warrants and despite the fact that their permits were in order. The spokesmen said that the group had been collectively fined $50 by a Justice of the Peace for illegal activity in the streets, and that the anti-Communist committees had paid it.

The propaganda that the newsboys were distributing consisted of a small handbill showing a death's head framed in a hammer and sickle and bearing the inscription "Support men free of understandings with extremist parties for public office. God, Union, Liberty." The spokesmen said this was the second or third time that newsboys had been arrested in similar circumstances.

This episode once again illustrated the manner in which the authorities under the Arbenz Administration harass the anti-Communist Opposition. Apart from the anti-Communist leaders who have been jailed or gone into exile within the past year, it will be recalled that the anti-Communists have complained that local Civil Registrars would not inscribe their candidates for the forthcoming municipal elections; official pressure has been brought to bear to keep anti-Communist radio programs off the air and recently to punish an independent radio station for cancelling a Communist program; and that last year young anti-Communist leaders were briefly imprisoned on the charge of carrying firearms, a custom which the police habitually overlook in the case of Administration politicians.

FOR THE AMBASSADOR

William L. Krieg
Counselor of Embassy.

JCHill:cs
REPORTER

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